

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A distribution system, comprising:
a server holding content data and a ringing tone, and distributing said content data and said ringing tone in accordance with a distribution request for said content data; and
- 5 a cellular phone transmitting the distribution request for said content data to said server, and receiving said ringing tone together with said content data from said server.
2. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular phone transmits authentication data in accordance with a request for transmission of the authentication data from said server, and receives said content data and said ringing tone in response to authentication of said authentication data being verified by said server.
- 5 3. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said server extracts and regenerates a ringing tone in response to the distribution request for said content data, and transmits the regenerated ringing tone to said cellular phone, and
- 5 said cellular phone transmits the distribution request for said ringing tone to said server in response to the distribution request for said ringing tone being entered.
4. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular phone receives said ringing tone only when the distribution request for said ringing tone is transmitted to said server.
5. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said content data is music data, and said server distributes to said cellular phone, as said ringing tone, a tune related to music data for which the distribution request is issued.

5 6. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein
said content data is music data, and
said server distributes to said cellular phone, as said ringing tone, a
part of music data for which the distribution request is issued at least a
predetermined number of times.

7. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein
said content data is music data, and
said server distributes to said cellular phone a ringing tone
determined based on a category to which requested music data belongs.

8. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein
said cellular phone receives said content data and said ringing tone
from said distribution server while no telephone call is in progress.

9. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein
a user of said cellular phone only pays a price for said content data to
said server.

10. A cellular phone receiving a ringing tone together with content
data from a server holding said content data and said ringing tone,
comprising:

5 a transmission/reception unit communicating with said server;
a memory unit storing said content data and said ringing tone;
a ringing tone generating unit;
a key operation unit for entering an instruction; and
a control unit,

10 said control unit transmitting a distribution request for said content
data entered from said key operation unit to said server via said
transmission/reception unit in response to said distribution request,
inputting said content data and said ringing tone received via said
transmission/reception unit into said memory unit, and setting said received
ringing tone to said ringing tone generating unit,

15 said ringing tone generating unit generating said set ringing tone
when said control unit receives a normal call via said transmission/reception
unit.

11. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
 said control unit reads authentication data stored in said memory
unit in response to a request for transmission of the authentication data
from said server, transmits the read authentication data to said server via
5 said transmission/reception unit, and receives said content data and said
ringing tone via said transmission/reception unit in response to
authentication of said authentication data being verified by said server.

12. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
 said control unit receives said ringing tone only when the
distribution request for said ringing tone is transmitted to said server via
said transmission/reception unit.

13. The cellular phone according to claim 10, further comprising:
 an output unit outputting said ringing tone to outside the cellular
phone,

 said control unit receiving a ringing tone regenerated at said server
5 via said transmission/reception unit, supplying the received ringing tone to
said output unit, and transmitting the distribution request for said ringing
tone to said server via said transmission/reception unit in response to the
distribution request for said ringing tone being entered via said key
operation unit.

14. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
 said content data is music data, and
 said control unit receives, as said ringing tone, a tune related to
music data for which the distribution requested is issued.

15. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein

said content data is music data, and
said control unit receives, as said ringing tone, a part of music data
for which the distribution request is issued to said server at least a
predetermined number of times.

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16. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
said content data is music data, and
said control unit receives a ringing tone determined based on a
category to which requested music data belongs.

17. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
said control unit receives said content data and said ringing tone
while no telephone call is in progress.

18. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein
said control unit reads said received ringing tone from said memory
unit in accordance with a request for setting a ringing tone entered via said
key operation unit, and supplies the read ringing tone to said ringing tone
generating unit.

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19. A distribution system, comprising:
a cellular phone issuing a distribution request for content data,
receiving said content data and a ringing tone, and setting said ringing tone;
a supplier distributing said content data and said ringing tone to
said cellular phone in response to the distribution request for said content
data from said cellular phone; and

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a content provider providing said supplier with said content data,
a user of said cellular phone pays only a price for said content data to
said supplier,

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said supplier pays a price for said content data to said content
provider, and receives an advertisement expense and a sales commission for
said content data from said content provider.